

May 9, 2007

**MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF THE  
TORRANCE PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION**

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

The Torrance Parks and Recreation Commission convened in a regular session at 7:00 p.m. on Wednesday, May 9, 2007, in the West Annex meeting room at Torrance City Hall. Co-Chairperson Cook led the meeting.

**2. ROLL CALL**

Present: Commissioners Gilbert, Hazell, McGee, Numark, Orpe, Robbins, Smoot, Taniguchi, and Co-Chairperson Cook.

Absent: Co-Chairperson Ning.

Also Present: Recreation Services Manager Jones,  
Park Services Manager Wilson, and  
Senior Business Manager Minter.

**MOTION:** Commissioner Taniguchi moved to grant an excused absence to Co-Chairperson Ning for the May 9, 2007 Parks and Recreation Commission meeting. Commissioner Gilbert seconded the motion; a voice vote reflected unanimous approval.

**3. FLAG SALUTE**

Youth Council member Chelsea Brewer led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**4. AFFIDAVIT OF POSTING**

**MOTION:** Commissioner Robbins moved to accept and file the report of the City Clerk on the posting of the agenda for this meeting. Commissioner McGee seconded the motion; a voice vote reflected unanimous approval.

**5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**5A. MINUTES OF APRIL 11, 2007**

**MOTION:** Commissioner McGee moved for the approval of the April 11, 2007 Parks and Recreation Commission meeting minutes as submitted. Commissioner Smoot seconded the motion; a voice vote reflected unanimous approval (absent Commissioner Ning).

**6. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE PUBLIC #1**

None.

**7. OLD BUSINESS**

**7A. STATUS OF COLLABORATIVE MAINTENANCE SERVICES WITH USALSO AND AYSO REGION 16 TO IMPROVE AND MAINTAIN SOCCER FIELDS AT COLUMBIA PARK**

Recreation Services Manager Jones provided background and summary of the material of record, noting that the partnership with United States of America Ladies Soccer Organization (USALSO) and American Youth Soccer Organization (AYSO) Region 16 has proven to be successful with vast improvement of Field #3 at Columbia Park. He advised that the organizations have recently expressed interest in expanding maintenance services to Fields #1, 2, and 4. He stated that the organizations were hiring a service to conduct a "clean out" of Fields #1 and #2 due to the sandy loam soil condition and prevalent gopher problem. He stated that the organizations were looking into an arrangement with Home Depot Center to use the turf that they remove twice a year for use in the Columbia Park soccer fields.

Commissioner Orpe, with concurrence by Co-Chairperson Cook, recommended that Field #3 be named Norm Jackson soccer field. Recreation Services Manager Jones offered to explore the proposal, advising that it would be a good idea for AYSO Region 16 to bring the concept forward to the Commission.

Responding to an inquiry by Commissioner McGee, Recreation Services Manager Jones stated that Field #3 is in much better condition than it was a year ago, mainly due to a change in general practices and patterns of its use.

Park Services Manager Wilson discussed challenges of leveling, irrigation modifications, and use of a gopher deterrent to maintain the fields.

In response to Commissioner Smoot's inquiry, Recreation Services Manager Jones stated that the two organizations use the fields almost exclusively.

**7B. STATUS OF CELL PHONE TOWER AT VICTOR PARK**

Recreation Services Manager Jones reported that on April 10, 2007 City Council approved that revenues produced from the lease agreement for the cell phone tower at Victor Park would be streamed to the Community Services Department for improvements to City parks.

Park Services Manager Wilson stated that lease payments would begin as soon as construction begins, noting that Sprint will be responsible for maintaining the vegetation around the mechanical area.

Recreation Services Manager Jones commended the Commission for requiring that the vault be installed underground and advised that the lease agreement will bring in approximately \$27,000 per year.

**8. NEW BUSINESS**

**8A. STATUS OF THE "STARS OF TOMORROW" YOUTH TRACK MEET**

Recreation Services Manager Jones provided a summary of the material of record regarding the April 21, 2007 youth track meet at West High School. He reported that approximately 300 youth participated in the collaboration with Recreation Services Division, Torrance Unified School District, and Torrance YMCA.

In response to an inquiry by Commissioner Hazell, he stated that the Youth Sports Section does not offer a training program.

**8B. STATUS OF SOUTH BAY SPECIAL OLYMPICS FUNDRAISER AT THE CLAIM JUMPER**

Recreation Services Manager Jones provided a summary of the material of record, noting that the April 26, 2007 "Tip-A-Cop" event raised \$5,297.

**9. STANDING COMMITTEE UPDATES**

**9A. FACILITIES COMMITTEE**

Has not met.

**9B. OPEN SPACE COMMITTEE**

Commissioner Smoot reported that the Open Space Committee met on May 9, 2007 to discuss the July 11, 2007 50<sup>th</sup> Annual Awards Banquet. She noted that the deadline for nominations is June 12, 2007, with selection scheduled for June 13, 2007.

**9C. PROGRAMS COMMITTEE**

Has not met.

**9D. GRANTS COMMITTEE**

Commissioner Orpe reported that the Grants Committee met on May 9, 2007 and requested that its report be deferred until the June Commission meeting.

**10. MONTHLY DEPARTMENT ACTIVITY**

**10A. ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES DIVISION**

Senior Business Manager Minter reported that the first day for Summer 2007 registration is May 16, 2007, noting that Internet registration is the easiest method for registering.

**10B. PARK SERVICES DIVISION**

Park Services Manager Wilson reported that there was a rattle snake sighting at Alta Loma Park and that the play equipment for El Retiro Park is currently being fabricated at the factory. He provided information about the Division's support for the Relay for Life program last week at South High School and plans to support the Armed Forces Day parade. He discussed the proposed feral cat charter club and ordinance that will be considered by City Council on May 10, 2007.

Commissioner McGee received clarification from staff that General Services was in the process of tenting park restrooms for termite control.

**10C. RECREATION SERVICES DIVISION**

In response to an inquiry by Commissioner Smoot, Recreation Services Manager Jones discussed the proposal to start a foot hockey league for youth and offered to provide more information at the June Commission meeting. He noted that a new

program Youth Co-Ed Dodgeball began on May 5, 2007 and that Kickball will be offered in the summer.

**11. ORALS**

**11A.** Co-Chairperson Cook welcomed Torrance Youth Council members Christina Kang from South High School, Chelsea Brewer from Chadwick School, Blake Edwards from West High School, and Nathan Lee.

Nathan Lee provided information about the Beat the Odds Scholarship dinner.

**11B.** Commissioner Taniguchi thanked the Park Rangers for their support at the April 21-22, 2007 Bunka-Sai Japanese Cultural Festival.

**11C.** Commissioner Taniguchi announced that the Rose Float Association was honoring the Sister City Association with its 2008 Rose float.

**11D.** Commissioner Taniguchi stated that Gene Barnett's retirement party on May 9, 2007 was "spectacular".

**11E.** Commissioner Hazell stated that he also enjoyed Mr. Barnett's retirement party as well as "Stars of Tomorrow" and the South Bay Special Olympics.

**11F.** Commissioner Robbins stated that he enjoyed Mr. Barnett's retirement party and that he was impressed with the humor from the City Attorney's Office.

**11G.** Commissioner Smoot stated that she was impressed with the service provided by Facility Reservation Specialist Patsy Beahan.

**11H.** Commissioner Numark stated that the retirement party for Gene Barnett was an enjoyable event.

**11I.** Commissioner Numark suggested that the City of Torrance consider hosting an Earth Day celebration and suggested that Commissioners consider dedicating their stipends to supplement the non-profit grant program.

**11J.** Commissioner Numark announced ShareFest on May 19, 2007 and asked Commissioners to consider volunteering before or after the Armed Forces Day parade.

He also announced the Torrance Symphony fundraiser on June 18, 2007 and that June has been declared Torrance Saves Lives month, with a month-long blood drive.

**11K.** Commissioner Orpe stated that he attended the Beat the Odds Scholarship banquet and encouraged Commissioners to attend next year.

**11L.** Commissioner Gilbert stated that the Beat the Odds Scholarship banquet was inspiring and announced the Cultural Arts Center Foundation's "Four Stand Up Dads" on May 12, 2007.

**11M.** Commission McGee stated that he was impressed with the Beat the Odds banquet as well as the ATTIC facility. He also enjoyed the Bunka- Sai Festival and Gene Barnett's retirement event.

**11N.** Recreation Services Manager Jones thanked Commissioner Numark for speaking at the May 8, 2007 Budget Hearing and encouraged Commissioners to attend the May 15, 2007 Budget Hearing.

**11O.** Recreation Services Manager Jones discussed a citizen's appeal to the Citizen Development Enrichment Committee to enclose the grass area near school bungalows at Greenwood Park. He stated that the cost would be \$34,000 to \$36,000 and that the citizen was willing to raise the funds.

**11P.** Park Services Manager Wilson discussed Torrance Unified School District's proposal that the City mow the grass at schools that are attached to parks. He stated that staff was exploring the suggestion to see if there are any efficiencies.

**11Q.** Responding to Commissioner McGee's inquiry, Recreation Services Manager Jones provided an update on the Chevron/Texaco parcel of land near Madrona Marsh Preserve. He stated that they were conducting a first phase assessment to verify that the land is clean.

**11R.** Senior Business Manager Minter announced that residents have a two-week period to register for classes before registration is opened up to non-residents.

**12. ADJOURNMENT**

**MOTION:** At 8:10 p.m., Commissioner Smoot moved to adjourn the meeting to June 13, 2007 at 7:00 p.m. in the West Annex meeting room. Commissioner Robbins seconded the motion and, hearing no objection, Co-Chairperson Cook so ordered.

Approved as Amended June 13, 2007 s/ Sue Herbers, City Clerk
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